

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-12 are in the application. Claims 1, 3-5 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 for being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 3-5 to clarify the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Dopper et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041873*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 to clarify that the device loads the closure plug into the patient connector, and that the closure plug is then transferred to one end of the patient connector. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 4, first paragraph, and in FIGS. 2A and 2B.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041873 A1 to *Dopper* (which is in the same patent family as DE 198 14 047 C1 discussed in the specification of the present application), relates to patient connectors for the peritoneal dialysis which are connected with the patient's abdominal connector for liquid exchange. After the peritoneal dialysis is finished, a closure plug is put into the patient connector with such peritoneal connectors in order to avoid a manual closing of the same, which has the inherent danger of peritonitis.

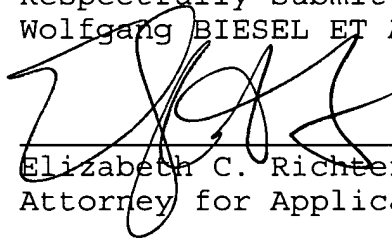
The patient connector according to DE 198 14 047 C1 or US 2001/0041873 A1 to *Dopper* is made for one-time use only, which means that after insertion of a closure plug into the abdominal connection of the patient, no closure plug is contained any more in the patient connector, and the push button is pushed in. The Examiner equates the means for transferring the closure plug in the present invention with the push button of *Dopper*, and the housing of the present invention with the patient connector of *Dopper*.

In the present invention, the transferring means is not the push button, but rather a separate device, which allows the user to reload the patient connector. A new closure plug is inserted

in the patient connector (and not in the abdominal connection), and the push button is again lead back to the starting position so that the patient connector again is available for a connection-/de-connection procedure. This reloading of the patient connector according to the device of the present invention can be done several times. Figs. 2a and 2b show the procedure of re-charging of a patient connector with the help of a device according to the invention.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are patentable over *Dopper*. Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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